

We are going to fight this battle on the tax credits, we are going to fight the battle in the way we count benefits as we go into welfare, and the thrust of our program, by having a balanced budget and by reducing taxes, to try to make people who are working hard that have been bearing the brunt of the economic growth and the job growth in America, to give them some breaks and let them keep some of their own money.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. You know the middle class families of America feel left out primarily because the White House fails to acknowledge that they even exist. Listen to this:

The Treasury Department says that they will not calculate income based on something they call family economic income.

Now this is not the money you bring home. This is something else. This is how when you hear people talk about tax cuts for the rich, they are actually talking about just about everyone in America because congratulations, we are all rich now as a result of the calculation from the White House.

Listen to this:

They say income includes things like your IRA income, Keogh deductions, AFDC benefits, social security and one more thing, the imputed rent on an owner house.

Now what this means is that if you own a home, the Federal Government, the Clinton administration, is going to assume that if you could earn rent on your house, that that is going to be calculated as your income. That is how a family earning \$50,000 a year all of a sudden becomes in the rich category.

So when you hear about tax cuts for the rich that you hear this term a lot, this really does apply to the average American family who the liberals in Washington all of a sudden want to demonize by calling you exceedingly wealthy.

But you know these are the folks who we represent. This is my parents, my retired school teachers, my in-laws, the pipefitter, the Yates family in Mississippi, the Conklin family in Illinois, average American families who work hard every day making middle class incomes. We want to reduce their tax burden. The liberals in Washington want to call them millionaires somehow magically and suggest that they are somehow bad people who do not deserve a break.

WOMEN'S CAUCUS HOLDS HILARIOUS NEWS CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Kentucky [Mrs. NORTHUP] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the House tonight about the tax cut and about a rather humorous, if you have a broad sense of humor, news conference that was held today earlier by the Democratic Members of the Women's Caucus here in the House.

You know it must be very terrible if you have to find reasons every day to be against a tax cut considering their popularity, and today this group of Members said that this tax cut would hurt the women of our country. That is especially hilarious when you think that most women are growing up and sharing homes and lives with men. They either have a father, they have a son, they have a brother or they have a spouse, and these women share their economic opportunities, their lives, their incomes, their taxes with men. You do not have tax cuts for very many people that help the men or help the women. You have tax cuts that help homes, they help families.

And so most women get up every morning, and their lives are intertwined with the men, with their sons who they are raising, with their fathers who raise them, with their spouse with whom they are making a life, and they all are in the financial challenges together.

And so as families work out their economic challenges, as middle class families get up every morning, they take kids to day care, they go to work, they pay for a car payment, they pay for their rent, and they wonder if there is going to be any chance that there is going to be money left over this summer so that they can go on that camping trip and go to the State park that they have read about and know would be such a good opportunity for them to share with their family.

It is not the men, it is not the women, it is the families, and I think it is so bad in this country if we try to divide all of us who are in this country together on to teams, whether we have the teams that are the women, the other team that are the men, the team, the racial teams of the minority and the majority. If we, however we divide on teams, what we do is we deny the common goals, the common threads, the fact that we are all working together for common purposes. But we especially do that in tax cuts when we say that certain tax cuts, tax packages would be bad for women because we then begin to try to divide people against their own homes, against their own families, against their own relatives.

So I want to take this opportunity to say with pride how proud I am to be part of a group of people who have listened so carefully to the American people who all of ourselves care so much about our families and our struggles.

I have 6 children. Two of them are now completely on their own, and two in the next 2 years will be on their own. They struggle every day with their finances. Every time they need a new tire, they feel so frustrated and they feel set back, and to have the privilege to have been able to fashion a tax cut that will give their generation and their friends' generation and our friends the opportunity to have a better opportunity to spend their own money, to have government spend less,

has been something that I am very proud of.

And it is not a women's issue, it is not a man's issue; it is a family issue, it is an American issue, and the American people are very clear about where they are on this issue.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. If the gentlewoman will yield, your comments are eloquent and certainly timely for this discussion in the House of tax reform. It is so important that we work together because the American people will win together when we reduced by \$500, we have the \$500 per child tax credit, we reduce inheritance taxes, we reduce the capital gains tax, we provide tax relief for students to go to college, and we are winning also because we have had an agreement with the White House. This is a bipartisan agreement. We have the Republican leadership working with the White House. President Clinton has seen the wisdom of working with us, and we are going to make positive changes, as you have described.

So your leadership here in the House and helping still accomplish real true tax relief for the American people is certainly a great testimony of why you were elected.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman would yield, I want to point out for those who do not know you are a mother of 6 children; correct?

Mrs. NORTHUP. That is right.

Mr. KINGSTON. So when you say this is a family issue, you know firsthand what a family issue is about.

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I certainly understand too, as my children have started on their own, each one of them, they feel so poor, they feel so vulnerable. They go to work every day, and there is never enough money. My husband and I have depended on them to be completely financially independent. We think that is how they grow up. But we certainly hear from them about the cost of insuring their car, about a car repair, about the challenges they face, and we remember those days ourselves.

It is like 2 steps forward and 1½ steps backwards, and you wonder, everybody that goes to work wonders every week if they are making any progress financially. In fact very seldom could my husband and I ever see progress as we looked ahead. It is only after years of work that you can begin to see the progress.

CONCERN ABOUT APPARENT DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DIPLOMACY IN THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO KARABAGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for half of the time remaining before midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address some of the issues related to the tax bill as well as the minimum wage this evening in the time